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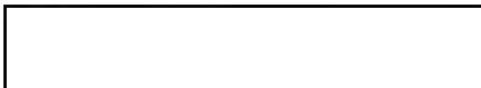
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Top Secret

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8 August 1967



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8 August 1967

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CONTENTS

Morocco: The government is pressing its search for arms. (Page 3)

USSR: Moscow may act soon on draft nonproliferation treaty. (Page 5)

USSR: A torpedo attack submarine of a new type is probably under construction. (Page 6)

Panama: Robles may defer treaty ratification until next year. (Page 7)

25X1

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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25X1

Morocco: The government is pressing its search for arms from a variety of sources.

On 3 August, King Hassan informed the US ambassador that Morocco had procured four AN-12s from the Soviet Union. The planes will be used to set up a domestic airline but would be available to transport paratroops in the event of hostilities with Algeria. He claimed that Kosygin had offered arms for immediate delivery, either on credit or as a gift. Morocco is going ahead with its purchase of tanks from Czechoslovakia, he added.

The King also claimed that Morocco did not want to go to the USSR but concluded that the Soviet offer appeared to be Morocco's only recourse because no US arms were yet in sight. France had refused to extend military aid, and Morocco's approaches to West Germany and Italy were unsuccessful. He pointed out that Portugal's offer of immediate arms aid could not be accepted for political reasons.

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8 Aug 67

3

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USSR: Moscow may soon agree to submit to the Geneva conference a joint Soviet-US draft nonproliferation treaty with the crucial provision on safeguards left open.

Several Soviet journalists have reported that Moscow was about to make such a move, but the timing has been uncertain. According to one of these, the USSR is now prepared to propose that debate be continued at the disarmament conference until the delegates there arrive at an acceptable formulation on safeguards. Confining discussion of safeguards to Geneva would avoid opening the issue at the UN General Assembly, where additional debate would further complicate agreement on a complete text.

Moscow probably hopes that the nonaligned states will regard the tabling of an incomplete Soviet-US draft as progress toward a treaty and increase pressures on other states--notably members of EURATOM--which are balking at proposals for safeguards. The nonnuclear members of EURATOM hope to ensure a continued role for that body in the safeguards field. The Soviets, however, insist that the treaty cover the problem of inspection in such a way as to subordinate EURATOM to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[redacted] Moscow hopes that final agreement and eventual signature of a nonproliferation treaty will coincide with the USSR's 50th anniversary celebrations on 7 November. [redacted]

25X1

8 Aug 67

5

USSR: A torpedo attack submarine of a new type probably is under construction.

[redacted]

[redacted] a submarine about 300 feet long was being built at Gorkiy shipyard. The new submarine is similar to nuclear-powered units now deployed in the Northern Fleet.

The Soviets now have only one class of nuclear-powered torpedo attack submarines--the 360-foot N-class. Construction on this class ended in about 1965, after some 15 units were built. The new submarine probably is a follow-on intended to meet a pressing need for an antisubmarine submarine. It probably will be nuclear-powered. If so, the short length--30 feet less than the smallest operational Soviet nuclear submarine--indicates the USSR has made significant advances in nuclear-propulsion design.

This new submarine program is one of several designed to improve and modernize the Soviet Navy. A new-class ballistic missile submarine, a new-class missile armed cruiser, and two helicopter carriers currently are being built.

[redacted]

8 Aug 67

6

*Panama: Ratification of the proposed canal treaties may be deferred by President Robles until after the May 1968 presidential election.

Mounting opposition to the treaties by the Foreign Relations Council, cabinet members, progovernment as well as opposition political parties, and by a clique of officers within the National Guard already has caused Robles to decide not to push for early ratification by a special session of the assembly.

Foreign Minister Eleta has told the US Ambassador that 28 proposed revisions in the drafts have originated within the Foreign Relations Council. The Council opposes signing of the treaties until it has had time for protracted discussion and an opportunity to seek further changes.

[redacted] two cabinet ministers--presidential aspirants and leaders of rival factions within Robles' Liberal party--may be withholding support of the treaties in order to gain the president's support as a candidate of the government coalition.

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Robles probably would be reluctant to hazard ratification in the overly charged pre-election atmosphere of the regular assembly session which opens on 1 October. Thus it could be that he will defer action until a successor government has been chosen by the voters. [redacted]

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8 Aug 67

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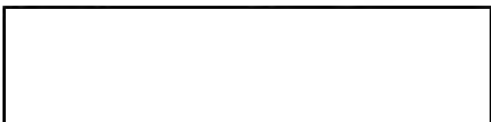
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